

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 13-15, 17 and 29-33 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Amend the claims as follows:

40. The fragment as claimed in claim 39, which consists of the amino acid sequence (residues 87-105 of SEQ ID NO:2) GFNETSCLKKLADGFFEFE.

g¹
41. The fragment as claimed in claim 39, which binds to a human IL-6 receptor.

42. A fragment obtained from the human viral interleukin-6 (v-IL-6) of claim 36 that binds to an IL-6 receptor and which can competitively inhibit the biological activity of IL-6 in a suitable assay system wherein the fragment binds to the IL-6 receptor.

g²
44. The isolated nucleic acid as described in claim 43, consisting of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

g³
46. An isolated nucleic acid molecule prepared by recombinant expression, hybridizing under stringent conditions to the nucleic acid as claimed in claim 44, encoding functional v-IL-6, wherein the nucleic acid encodes functional v-IL-6.

g⁴
50. A cell culture growth medium, comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 45, wherein the isolated nucleic acid molecule is produced by recombination.

51. A fragment of a polypeptide that is obtainable by recombinant expression of the DNA of HHV-8 in an isolated cell and which comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ